

# Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) for Northern Virginia

First Public Meeting  
January 17, 2018



# DEQ Welcome and Opening Remarks

- Salt Management Strategy (SaMS)
  - Why are We Here?
  - Why is it Important?
  - What is Envisioned?
  - Scope
- Plenary Session Speakers
  - Salt Institute
  - ICPRB
- SaMS Goals & Objectives, Process & Timeline



# Why are We Here?

- TMDL (2017) identified chlorides (salts) as one of the primary stressor pollutants in Accotink Creek
  - Primary source of salts are products used for winter storm management (snow and ice removal)
- Develop a strategy to improve water quality through enhanced winter storm management in Accotink Creek and proactively throughout Northern Virginia

# Why is this Important?

- Snow and ice removal products used broadly throughout Northern Virginia to meet a variety of public interests:
  - Public safety on roads and sidewalks/paved surfaces, and
  - Accessibility of businesses/maintaining standard work schedules, while
  - Balancing the cost of winter storm maintenance
- However, excessive use of salts can:
  - Reduce water quality
  - Damage infrastructure and landscape
  - Threaten drinking water quality and affect public health

# SaMS – What is Envisioned?

- A collaboratively developed, comprehensive strategy to
  - ✓ maintain high levels of public safety and winter accessibility, and
  - ✓ reduce chloride (salt) releases to Northern Virginia surface waters
- Broadly framed best management practices; education/ outreach, & commitment to track improvements in salt use and monitor water quality
- Relevant to all involved and affected by snow and ice management :

Government Agencies	Water Suppliers
Property Owners/Managers	Public Safety Managers
Winter Maintenance Providers	Residents/Local Organizations



Accotink Creek Watershed

Washington, D.C.

Sources: Esri, HERE, DeLorme, USGS, Intermap, increment P Corp., NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, MapmyIndia, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

- Accotink Creek watershed conditions not unique; Winter salt use practices not limited to watershed boundaries
- Project area includes VDOT Northern Virginia District, which matches State Police Division 7

# Tonight's Featured Speakers

- Salt Institute, *Dr. Wilfrid Nixon*
  - Presentation on “Safe and Sustainable Snowfighting”
    - Safety and Economic benefits of salt use in winter maintenance
    - Practices that save costs and reduce environmental impacts

**Was traveling in from Florida.....**
- Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, *Heidi Moltz and Karin Bencala*
  - Presentation of research on:
    - impacts of salts used in winter maintenance operations
    - Costs and benefits of improved management practices

# Current Plans for SaMS Development

## Goals

- ❖ Develop a strategy to address the Accotink Creek chloride TMDLs and apply it proactively to the NOVA region
- ❖ Generate long-term support for improved practices that protect public safety and lessen environmental, infrastructure and public health effects

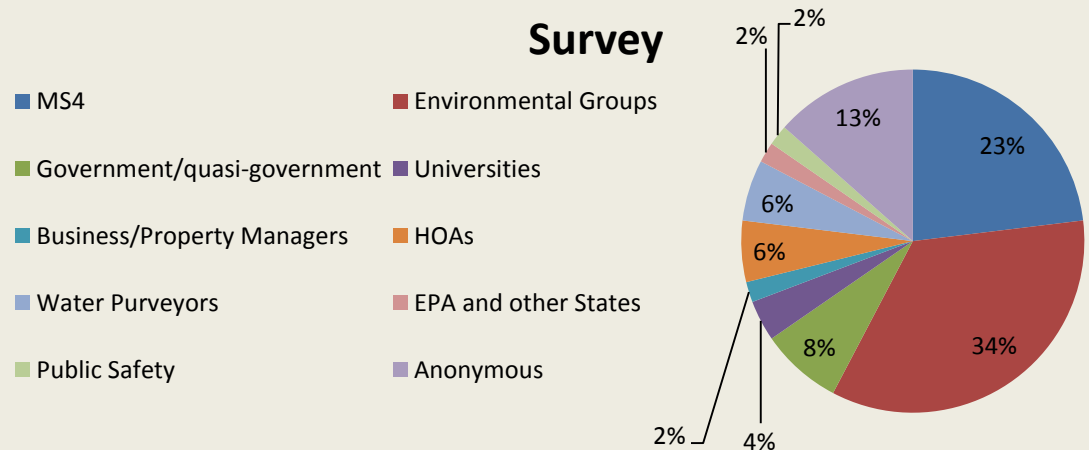
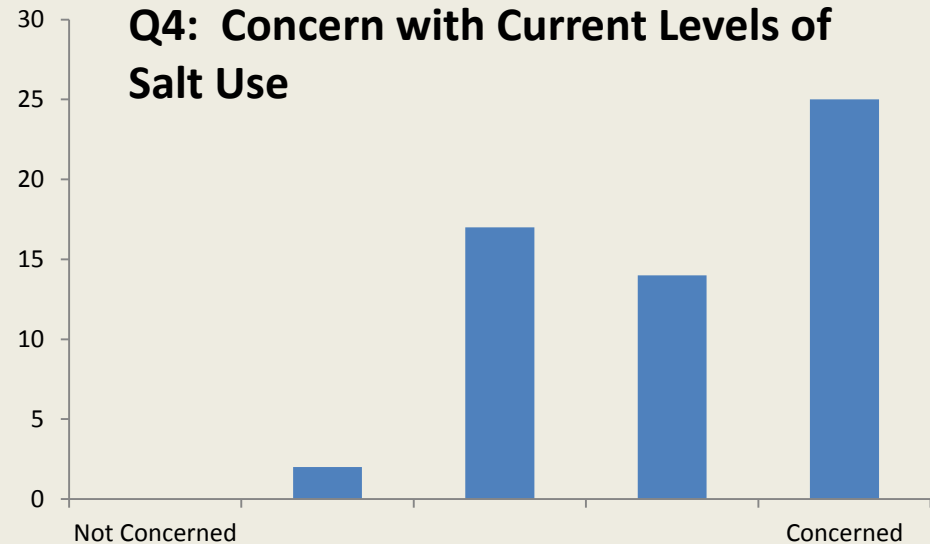
## Objectives

- Develop a suite of improved winter **salt use practices**
- Produce a **guiding document** on how to address all aspects of the issue
- Develop a comprehensive public **education and outreach** campaign
- Explore **funding opportunities** to support implementation
- Develop options for effectiveness **monitoring** and ways to report and track **salt usage**

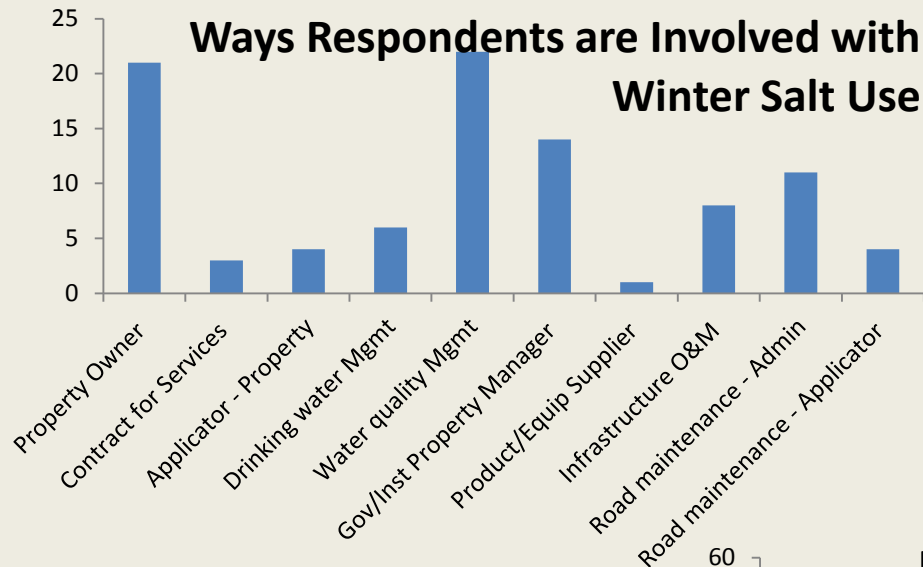


# Survey Responses: Opportunities, Levels of Concern and Stakeholder Group Participation

- 95% of Respondents see opportunities to both 1) reduce the environmental impacts of salts, and 2) keep high levels of public safety
- The 58 Respondents have 1) moderate to high levels of Concern, and 2) span all major stakeholder groups – with environmental groups and MS4's most represented in survey.

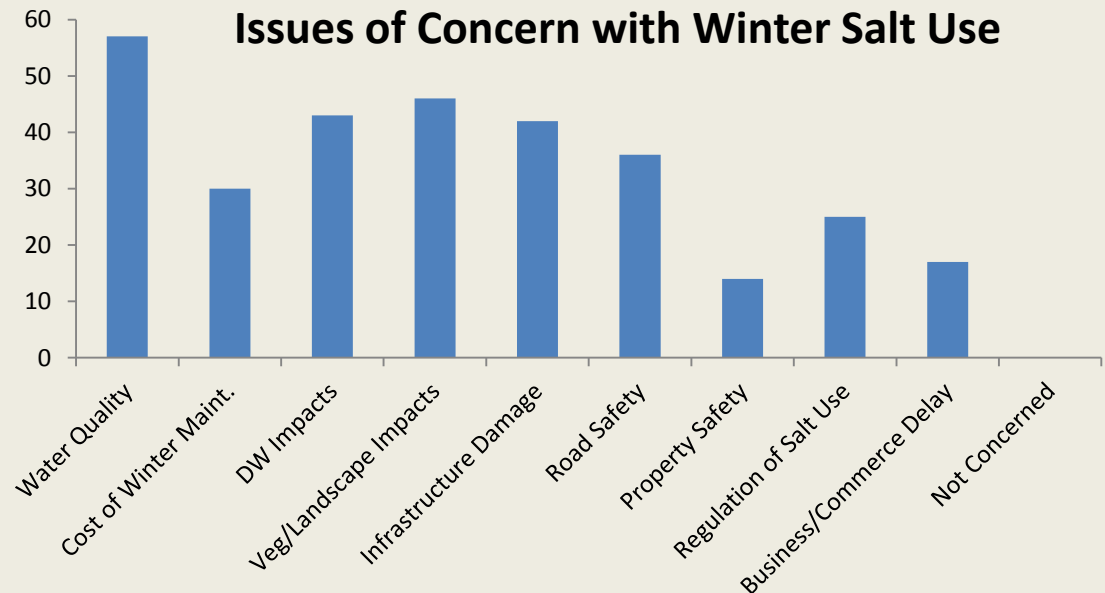


# Types of Involvement and Concerns



*Water Quality, Property Ownership/ Management and Road Maintenance are top ways respondents are involved in salt use*

*Water Quality, Drinking Water, Vegetation/ Landscaping & Infrastructure damage, and Road Safety are top areas of concern*



# SaMS Project Plan and Schedule

- **Stakeholder Advisory Committee**

- February 27: initial meeting in Fairfax
- Additional 2-3 meetings to guide project

- **Workgroups:** currently envision 6 workgroups, to frame recommendations for SAC consideration

- Begin June 2018, conclude April 2019
- Each workgroup to meet approximately 3 times

- **Steering Committee** (potential): to guide final report development

- **Final Public Meeting** (anticipated in Fall 2019)



# SaMS Participation and Public Comment

- Public Comment period Jan. 17 – Feb. 17, 2017
  - SaMS Project Plan input
  - Report on the impact and costs of salt application
- Submit comments to: Dave Evans
  - Telephone: (703) 583-3835
  - E-mail: [David.Evans@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:David.Evans@deq.virginia.gov)
- Public Participation in the SaMS
  - Sign-up for interest in Stakeholder Advisory Committee throughout the comment period
  - Workgroups for specific areas of interest will be formed early this Spring

# Thank you for Attending

- We welcome your continued participation, feedback and questions.....
- DEQ Project Team:
  - Dave Evans, [David.Evans@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:David.Evans@deq.virginia.gov)  
(703-583-3835)
  - Will Isenberg, [William.Isenberg@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:William.Isenberg@deq.virginia.gov)  
(804-698-4228)
  - Sarah Sivers, [Sarah.Sivers@deq.virginia.gov](mailto:Sarah.Sivers@deq.virginia.gov)  
(703-583-3898)